



Montana Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board
Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Program
PO Box 202005
Helena MT 59620
(406) 444-5609

2008 FACT SHEET

- The Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board and Program were created by the 2007 Montana Legislature.
- Montana's Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation program was created to fulfill the compensation provisions of the Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.
- Board makeup consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Three members were selected from a pool of names recommended by the Montana Department of Livestock, another three members were recommended by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and one member from the general public.
- This program addresses economic losses due to wolf predation and will be creating incentives for producers to take proactive, preventative steps to decrease the risk of loss as funding becomes available.
- The program is based on the belief that both government and livestock producers want to take reasonable and cost-effective measures to reduce losses, the acknowledgement that it is not possible to prevent all losses, and that livestock owners should not incur disproportionate impacts as a result of recovery of Montana's wolf population.
- The purpose of this program is to acknowledge the importance of economic viability and sustainability of individual livestock owners who are negatively affected by wolf recovery. More specifically, the purpose of loss reduction and mitigation programs are:
 - to proactively apply prevention tools and incentives to decrease the risk of wolf-caused losses;
 - to provide financial reimbursements to producers for losses caused by wolves based on program criteria.
- Gray wolf recovery has and will continue to result in the loss of personal property and income to some livestock producers.

- Montana legislators established a trust fund that will create a stable revenue source for future loss and mitigation payments. Our task is to find the initial funding to fill this trust fund.
- The livestock loss reduction and mitigation trust fund is funded with gifts, grants, appropriations, or allocations from any source.
- As a state operated program, donations to Montana's program are tax deductible per Internal Revenue Service section 170(c)(1). As a comparison, this is similar to a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization.
- Animals covered by our program are cattle, swine, horses, mules, sheep, goats, and livestock guard animals.
- All confirmed and probable losses are reimbursed at an amount not to exceed the fair market value.
- Confirmed and probable loss determinations are made solely by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services staff.
- Livestock owners who believe their loss is due to gray wolves will need to contact USDA Wildlife Services at (406) 458-0106 for Western Montana or (406) 322-4303 in Eastern Montana to request an investigation.
- Livestock owners who have suffered a loss from gray wolves will be given an investigative report from USDA Wildlife Services and a Montana Loss Reimbursement Application.
- Value for animals is established in Montana state law (2-15-3112, MCA). Montana law provides for an impartial value determination for both commercial and registered livestock.
- Presently, the board is only able to pay for probable and confirmed losses. As funding becomes available, the board will begin to enact a grants program for proactive measures.
- Montana's program began making payments for losses as of April 15, 2008.
- We recognize that only a small fraction of predator-killed livestock are found and the board hopes to be able to address this issue in the future.
- Please address any questions or concerns to George Edwards, Livestock Loss Mitigation Coordinator, at (406) 444-5609 or email gedwards@mt.gov.